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Dan Smoot Report

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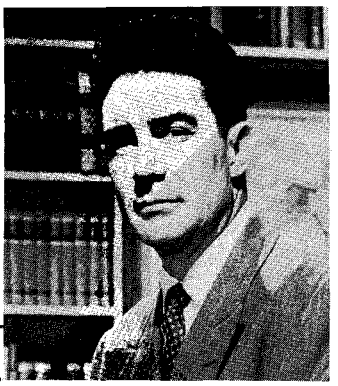

DAN SMOOT

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S TWO WARS

Since February, 1965, when President Johnson ordered bombing of targets in North Vietnam, conservative opposition to disastrous great society programs has steadily declined. The opposition that remained virtually collapsed on April 29, 1965, when the President ordered Marines into the Dominican Republic.[1]

One year ago, conservatives were imbued with virile hope. Now they often jibe, with bitterness bearing a tinge of grudging admiration, that President Johnson is faithfully fulfilling Senator Goldwater's campaign promises of 1964.

Comments from my subscribers provide a good sampling of the changing conservative attitude. From all over the nation, people say to me:

"I did not vote for President Johnson; and I do not like his crazy great society programs; but I must now admit that he has the right idea about foreign policy. At last, we have a President who is really standing up against the communists."

Noting this condition, *U. S. News & World Report* made a nationwide survey, and published the results, on May 31, 1965, in an article entitled "The Changing Mood of America." From the article:

"The mood of people in America is discovered to be undergoing a change in this period . . . . Sentiment seems to have hardened back of the President on a tougher policy in Vietnam. There is almost unanimous support for the military move into the Dominican Republic."

Samuel Lubell, a political pollster who generally reflects the totalitarian liberal view, has also noted the collapse of opposition to President Johnson's programs. In a column syndicated by United Features, published in *The Dallas Times Herald* on June 7, 1965, Lubell said:

"Although 19 months have passed since Lyndon Johnson became President, no clear line of resistance to his policies has yet been drawn in the minds of the American public. If anything, in fact, the opposition to him through the country appears weaker and more divided than it was during the last presidential election . . . .

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"Among conservative Republicans, disgruntlement over Johnson's economic policies has been undercut by his forceful action in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic. Repeatedly, these conservatives have said, 'I don't like Johnson's socialism, but he's surprised me with his strong stand against communism.' "

I cannot refrain from saying, as President Johnson himself often says—paraphrasing the Lord as quoted in Isaiah—"Come now, let us reason together."

In The Caribbean

Concerning the Dominican Republic: as pointed out in the May 17, 1965, issue of this *Report,* the only interval of relative peace and prosperity in the history of the Dominican Republic was the 30-year Trujillo era. Rafael Trujillo was a tyrant; but the Dominicans have an unbroken record of proof that they are incapable of understanding or maintaining a free society. Trujillo's tyranny was directed against communists and the camp-following liberal leftists, and against regional chieftains—none of whom wanted freedom for the people. They lusted after the power that Trujillo possessed. The majority of the people—the peasant masses—loved Trujillo.[1]

The kind of government a foreign people have, or want, is no business of ours, unless the government poses a threat to the life and property of U. S. citizens or to the security of the United States. Trujillo, far from being a threat to the United States, was the only strong friend we had in the Caribbean area. Yet, despite Trujillo's fierce, unshakable loyalty to the United States, the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations took the lead in destroying the Trujillo regime. The State Department and the CIA have even been accused of plotting and arranging the assassination of Trujillo in 1961.[1]

In contrast, the Kennedy-Johnson administration lavished aid and praise upon Juan Bosch, who was elected President of the Dominican Republic in 1962. Bosch had been a communist, in exile from the Dominican Republic for 25 years, and was notorious for involvement in Latin American leftist activities. During the ten months of Bosch's presidency, the Kennedy-Johnson administration gave him multiplied millions of our tax dollars, to make the Dominican Republic, under his leftist dictatorship, a "showcase of democracy." The aid we gave Bosch in less than one year was many times more than the total amount we had given Trujillo in 30 years.[1]

Bosch used American tax money to create a socialist dictatorship worse than Trujillo's; and the Dominican economy sank into ruin. Seeing the country rapidly becoming a communist satellite, a military junta seized power in September, 1963; and Bosch fled the country. The communist rebellion of April, 1965, was planned and directed, at least in part, by Bosch—from his United States sanctuary in Puerto Rico.[1]

We and the Dominicans would have been infinitely better off if we had left them and their pro-American dictator alone to manage their own affairs. Instead, we helped create conditions which made our military intervention necessary in 1965. If our intervention had been robust and unlimited, our soldiers could have wiped out the communists' rag-tag hoodlum gang in 30 hours; and Johnson would have deserved praise for vigorous action, despite his complicity in previous events which destroyed the Dominican Republic as a staunch friend of the United States. But Johnson ordered a halting, timid intervention which handicapped our soldiers, confused their objectives, and prohibited them from using their best weapons and tactics.[1]

Before our troops had been in Santo Domingo a month, President Johnson threatened to use them against the anti-communist junta, if the anti-communists did not stop fighting and negotiate a coalition settlement. At the time we forced a cease-fire in the Dominican Republic, the communist-led rebels were losing in all quarters, ap-

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proaching utter defeat. The truce we enforced gave them an opportunity to regroup and gather strength to fight some more.[2]

Shades of the past! This is how we helped communists conquer China in the 1940's. This is how our State Department gave communists victory in Korea in 1953, after our soldiers had whipped the communists on every major field of battle, at a cost of 54,246 American lives. This is how we helped communists gain control of strategic North Vietnam in Indo-China in 1954. This is how we negotiated the surrender of Laos to a communist-controlled coalition government in 1962, after millions of our tax dollars had been squandered, to the tune of loud boasts that we would never permit communists to take Laos.[3] This is how Henry Cabot Lodge and the Kennedy administration destroyed the Diems in South Vietnam in 1963, thus removing the last probability of strong anti-communist control in that land.[4]

On May 25, 1965, about 1000 women in Santo Domingo marched on the American Embassy, bearing signs protesting our policy of forcing anti-communists to negotiate a coalition government with communists. Some of the signs read:

"Why does the United States stop our fight against communism?"

Some read:

"Yankees yes, communists no!"

Others said:

"Yankees stay with us, but let's keep the house clean. Out with the communists."[5]

At this moment, however, it seems certain that the Johnson administration will force the Dominicans to accept a communist-dominated coalition government, under the control of some henchman of Juan Bosch—or of some other extreme leftist—who, before long, will openly announce his dedication to communism. Then, our leaders will be surprised, just as they were surprised about Castro.

Just recently, former President Eisenhower explained why he and other eminent Americans did not oppose Castro until it was too late. Mr. Eisenhower said: "All sorts of people"—including John F. Kennedy—"said that Castro was a great man who was getting rid of that dictator, Batista. It wasn't until December, 1961, that Castro finally confessed he was a marxist and always had been." There is a liberal method of spotting communists: wait for their voluntary confession.

Now that we are in the Dominican Republic, what we should do is obvious. We should ignore the Organization of American States and all other outside organizations and nations. We should act swiftly, with all our strength, to clean out every pocket of communism. We should occupy the nation with our own troops until a genuine anti-communist government is installed; and we should then get out and leave the Dominican Republic alone.

In Asia

The Vietnam affair is even more complicated and dangerous than the Dominican situation. We have many times reviewed the steps which took us to our present impasse in Asia. Let us review them again.[3,4]

On August 8, 1945, six days before the United States forced Japanese surrender, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. On August 9, three Soviet armies moved into Manchuria (Northeastern China, bordering Russia and Korea). Soviet armies stayed in Manchuria less than a year—long enough to dismantle and remove to the USSR all modern industrial plants, transportation facilities, and everything else the Soviets could use. During this period, they set up a communist puppet state in North Korea. After stripping Manchuria of about one billion dollars' worth of war booty, the Soviets armed Chinese communists with captured Japanese equipment (and with American equipment which we had given the

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Soviet Siberian armies); and they helped communists successfully resist Chinese nationalist forces which Chiang Kai-shek sent to occupy Manchuria as the Soviets withdrew.[3]

From their Manchurian base, Chinese communists intensified their war against Chiang Kai-shek. To weaken United States support for Chiang, communists, and their liberal propagandists in America, claimed they were not real communists, but agrarian reformers, merely seeking fair representation in Chiang Kai-shek's government. Chiang resisted American demands that he negotiate with communists, until George Marshall forced him to comply.[3] The result was communist conquest of China in 1949.

On June 24, 1950, communists attacked South Korea. President Truman sent American troops to drive communists out of Korea, and to unify the nation (north and south) under the anti-communist government of Syngman Rhee. Washington and United Nations officialdom would not, however, let Americans and South Koreans win the war. In July, 1953—after 54,246 Americans had died—President Eisenhower accepted a Korean armistice on terms proposed by "neutralist" India, but dictated by communists.[3]

Trying to restore shattered American prestige, the Eisenhower administration asserted that we had stopped communism in Korea, and that communists realized they could conquer no more territory in Asia. The administration expressed firm determination to protect French Indochina from communists.[3]

Indochina is a huge peninsula, projecting southward from the Asian mainland into the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea — comprising Burma, Malaya, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. French colonial possessions in that region — known as French Indochina — included Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

There had been sporadic, indecisive guerrilla warfare between French and communist forces for years; and we had supported the French with millions of dollars of aid. The Korean war gave an incalculable boost to the morale, prestige, and military strength of communists in Asia. After the Korean armistice, therefore, conditions changed explosively. Communists converted scattered guerrilla action into total war against the French. We continued aid to the French; but on May 7, 1954, the gallant resistance of a small band of French Foreign Legionnaires was broken; and Dienbienphu, the last French stronghold in northern Vietnam, fell. Our aid to France was wasted; communists had done what we had pledged never to let them do.[3,4]

In the late summer of 1954, an international conference at Geneva divided the old French Union into four nations: neutral Cambodia, neutral Laos, neutral South Vietnam, and communist North Vietnam.[4]

An International Control Commission—composed of representatives from Canada, India, and communist Poland—was given the job of supervising the truce agreements. Communists had guerrilla bands throughout the area. They had been given all of North Vietnam, with the understanding that they would disperse their rebel groups in Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam, and respect the neutrality of those three independent nations. They never did disperse their guerrilla bands, but used them to harass the three nations. The International Control Commission ignored, or tacitly approved, communist violations.[4]

In 1955, the Eisenhower administration decided to make its next firm stand against spreading Asian communism in Laos—a landlocked, primitive, jungle kingdom of about two million people, mostly illiterate. The Laotian economy went on the American dole. We trained, equipped, clothed, housed, fed, and paid the salaries of the Laotian army and police forces; and we directly financed more than 80% of the total civilian budget of the government of Laos.[4]

In December, 1960, our side at last seemed to be winning. A strong anti-communist (Prince Boun Oum) was the premier of a new government; and communist forces were driven from

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Vientiane (capital of the nation) where they had been in control for months. The Soviets suggested an international conference to "settle the trouble in Laos." It was obvious that communists wanted to switch the war for Laos from the battlefield to the conference table—where the anti-communist government of Laos could be forced to form a coalition government with communists.[4]

The United States rejected the Soviet proposal in December, 1960; but on March 23, 1961, President Kennedy reversed the American position. In 1961 and 1962, President Kennedy's special emissary to Laos (W. Averell Harriman) did in Laos what George Marshall had done in China 15 years before—forced the anti-communist government to surrender control to a communist-dominated coalition. By the end of 1962, Laos was virtually a communist puppet state—but American aid continued.[4]

Simultaneously with abandoning the fight against communism in Laos, the Kennedy administration, in early 1962, announced that *the* firm stand against Asian communism would be made in South Vietnam. All forms of American aid were greatly increased; and thousands of American military personnel were assigned to South Vietnam as advisers, technicians, trainers.[4]

From the beginning, the war in Vietnam, like the earlier war in Korea, was waged from the American side with self-imposed limitations against *provoking* the principal enemy. Communist China and the Soviets trained guerrillas in North Vietnam and moved them, by land and by airlift, into Laos.[4]

From their safe bases in Laos, communist guerrillas had a choice of hundreds of trails for raids across the border into South Vietnam. They terrorized villages, kidnapped peasants for training and service in communist armies, confiscated or destroyed supplies and equipment vital to the military and to the civilian population of South Vietnam, killed South Vietnam troops (and, when possible, their American advisers). When they met opposition, communists retreated along jungle trails to safety, either in "neutral" Cambodia or "neutral" Laos — privileged sanctuaries where American policy would not permit them to be followed, or their supply bases attacked.[4]

Our government would not even permit the South Vietnamese to retaliate when they were fired upon from across the Cambodian border.[4]

For the most part, the people of South Vietnam —like the people of Laos—had little interest in the war against communism. But the South Vietnamese government of President Ngo Dinh Diem, strongly anti-communist, was determined to stay in the fight until victory was achieved.[4]

American military men recognized Diem for what he was: a strong man at the head of a nation whose illiterate peasantry (the bulk of the population) knows nothing and cares less about the meaning of communism or about the civilized idea of fighting for freedom—a nation whose few educated people are largely brainwashed with pro-communist ideas of contemporary liberalism. At war against an enemy that was invading from without and entrenched within, Diem did trample on civil rights, just as Abraham Lincoln did during the American Civil War; but we were not helping Diem because we loved him. We were helping him, ostensibly, because the Kennedy administration wanted to make a firm stand against communism in South Vietnam.[4]

American military men knew that, if our objective was to fight communism, we had better stick with Diem, because he was capable of doing a better job than anyone else.[4]

Indeed, as late as October, 1963, Robert S. McNamara (Secretary of Defense) and General Maxwell D. Taylor (then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) said the war against communism in South Vietnam was going so well that 1000 American military men could be pulled out by the end of 1963, and that most remaining Americans could be removed by the end of 1965.[4]

But President John F. Kennedy, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and other major officials in

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the Kennedy administration seemed to have an implacable hatred of Diem. Henry Cabot Lodge was sent to South Vietnam as American Ambassador, for the purpose, it later appeared, of removing Diem. On November 1, 1963, the Diem government was overthrown. President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were murdered. There are disturbing indications that Henry Cabot Lodge (carrying out policies of the State Department) was deeply involved in that gruesome affair — that he prodded and unleashed forces, and helped plan events, which led to the dual murder.[4]

After the Diem government was overthrown, the war against communism in South Vietnam went from bad to worse. President Kennedy was assassinated in the same month when President Diem was murdered.

President Johnson has continued the basic Kennedy policy in South Vietnam.[4]

In the past 13 years, our armed forces have spent 53 billion, 800 million dollars on development and production of nuclear weapons. Relatively few of them are world-shattering bombs. Most are tactical weapons designed to save the lives of our own men by giving them weapon superiority. To date, however, *we have not used one nuclear weapon in Vietnam.*

In February, 1965, President Johnson delighted American conservatives—and horrified liberals—by revealing that he had authorized bombing in North Vietnam, previously a privileged sanctuary for the communists. Almost everyone seemed to overlook the fact that, before ordering the bombing, President Johnson had sacrificed the effectiveness of that decision by announcing that we would *not* bomb major cities, harbors, and vital industrial installations.[6]

Two full months of such bombing apparently did little damage to the communist enemy in North Vietnam (though it did great damage to President Johnson's political opposition at home). So, President Johnson took another bold step: he virtually offered the communists a billion-dollar bribe if they would quit fighting to negotiate. The communists sneered.

What does this do to our "world image"? The people of the world know we are fighting a war in Vietnam. They reasonably assume we are doing our best, fighting with all we have. Yet, after four months of presumed all-out effort by mighty America, against the twelfth-rate communist puppet state of North Vietnam, no appreciable gains for our side have been made; and the little communist enemy still jeers when President Johnson pleads for unlimited discussions.

Will this deter communist aggressions in the world? To the contrary, it suggests that the United States does not have the spine or the will to use its great national strength against communism.

We should never have involved ourselves in Vietnam. We have no business shedding American blood in Asia for Asians.

But there, as elsewhere—when the internationalist policies of our totalitarian liberals get us involved in war—we ought to give our fighting men our best weapons, and strike full strength to win, and win quickly.

President Johnson says he is determined to stop communist aggression in Asia, regardless of cost. If he is determined to stop it with American manpower, he had better hit the center of communist power in Asia. That is not in the jungles south of Hanoi: it is in Peiping, the capital of communist China!

If we continue the policy which our internationalist meddlers seem determined to follow, we will have to fight the Chinese communists. If we are going to fight them, we had better do it now, before they acquire more weapons of mass destruction.

The Chinese communists are ruthless barbarians who murdered about 50 million of their own people, without benefit of superior weapons.

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To me, it is spine chilling to see us heading for war with the Chinese communists, but delaying long enough for them to build a full arsenal of nuclear weapons and to make the first strike!

All-out war with communist China is *one* alternative to the dreadful impasse into which our political leaders have manipulated us. Two other courses are possible: (1) another disguised, disgraceful surrender in Vietnam, comparable to previous surrenders in Asia; or (2) a prolonged, limited war, infinitely costly in American blood and resources.

There is one alternative, which makes liberals froth at the mouth, but which *I* recommend:

We should give Chiang Kai-shek, and the world, notice that we plan to get out, when *we* are ready, and let Asians fight their own wars in their own way.

While preparing to get out, we should patrol the Strait of Formosa to protect Chiang from the communists, permitting him to strike the communists if he likes.

We should instantly stop all foreign aid—most of which goes to communist, pro-communist, and neutralist nations.

All aid that has already been committed (which is already in the "pipeline" and cannot reasonably be abruptly stopped) should be diverted to Chiang Kai-shek, who has been begging for a chance to fight for 20 years.

After our aid is delivered to Chiang, we should pull out, giving him our blessing to move as he pleases to rescue China from the communists. If he succeeded, he would destroy the fountainhead of communist power in Asia.

What if he failed?

There is one thing we *can* be sure of: if there are not enough Asians willing and able to fight for their own freedom, then Asia cannot be saved. No matter how many American lives our political leaders may be willing to sacrifice in the jungles, deserts, hills, and rice paddies, we simply do not have enough men to fight Asia's wars for her.

What is Chiang Kai-shek's view of the problem? Here, from the April 18, 1965, issue of *Free China Weekly*, are comments which President Chiang made to a UPI correspondent in Taipei on April 12, 1965:

"The United States should . . . adopt a positive policy with a view to eliminating the communist regime on the Chinese mainland and at the same time avoiding a direct armed clash with the Chinese Communists.

"We must realize that the Peiping regime is not only the source of the current disturbances in much of Asia but also poses an ever-growing threat to the free world as a whole. Its leaders

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU getting BA and MA degrees, 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent: three and a half years on communist investigations; two years on FBI headquarters staff; almost four years on general FBI cases in various places. He resigned from the FBI and, from 1951 to 1955, was commentator on national radio and television programs, giving *both* sides of controversial issues. In July, 1955, he started his present profit-supported, free-enterprise business: publishing *The Dan Smoot Report,* a weekly magazine available by subscription; and producing a weekly news-analysis radio and television broadcast, available for sponsorship by reputable business firms, as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and broadcast give *one* side of important issues: the side that presents documented truth using the American Constitution as a yardstick. If you think Smoot's materials are effective against socialism and communism, you can help immensely—help get subcribers for the *Report,* commercial sponsors for the broadcast.

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are fanatics bent on internal oppression and external aggression . . . .

"Anti-Communist Asian nations, such as the Republic of China [Free China], that have well-trained armed forces . . . should have their hands unshackled so that they can use their own strength to launch a crusade against a rebel regime in their own country. In so doing, they will be destroying the sanctuary of the Chinese Communists' aggression against the free world. The United States need not send a single soldier to fight on the Chinese mainland. Thus other countries could be denied any ground to intervene in China's domestic affairs . . . .

"Since the formation of their party in 1921, the Chinese Communists have always regarded the United States as their arch enemy. They have openly and repeatedly declared that they cannot co-exist with America, and that they will keep on instigating other nations to oppose the United States until they succeed in expelling her from the Western Pacific. Their aim is the complete subjugation of Asia and world domination. This means that until and unless the Peiping regime is overthrown, there is neither any hope of peace in Asia nor any chance of security anywhere on the globe. The destruction of this regime and the avoidance of a direct armed conflict with the Chinese Communists, therefore, should be the ultimate purpose of the U. S. policy in Asia."

FOOTNOTES

(1) For background information on the Dominican Republic crisis, see this *Report*, "The Dominican Republic," May 17, 1965.

(2) AP story from Santo Domingo, *The Dallas Times Herald*, May 19, 1965, pp. 1A, 10A; UPI story from Santo Domingo, *The Dallas Times Herald*, May 23, 1965, pp. 1A, 27A

(3) For details on American Asian policies, see this *Report*, "Our Asian Wars," May 11, 1964.

(4) Detailed information on U. S. involvement in Vietnam, and Henry Cabot Lodge's part in the destruction of the Diems, is in this *Report*, "Vietnam and Lodge," April 27, 1964.

(5) UPI story from Santo Domingo, *The Dallas Morning News*, May 26, 1965, p. 1A

(6) "Washington Whispers," *U. S. News & World Report*, June 21, 1965, p. 31

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